489. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed new Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to succeed Dr. Vergese Kurien; and

(b) if so, the name alongwith the qualification, age, experience of the new ' incumbent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 1 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Dr. (Miss) Amrita Patel has been appointed Chairman of National Dairy Developement Board, vide Notification dated .26.11.98. The details are as follows:

Qualifications	Overseas Cambridge School Certificate Examination, B.V. Sc. & A.H. Degree, Advanced training in Animal Nutrition at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, U.K.
Age	55 Years
Experience	(i) Worked in National Dairy Development Board for more than 27 years with more than 10 years in the capacity of Managing Director.
	(ii) Worked as Animal Nutrition Officer in Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd. for 6 years.
	(iii) Held many important position linked with Dairy, Livestock and co-operative sector.
	(iv) Received various Awards including "International Person of the Year" in the year 1997 by the World Dairy Expo, Inc, USA.

Floods in Bihar

490. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA Will the PRIME pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of loss of life and property due to the recent floods in Bihar and other parts of the country;.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the quantum of assistance given by Government to Bihar and other affected States as against the demand for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat,

Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tripura, Uttar. Pradesh and West Bengal were reportedly affected by floods, resulting in damage to life and property in varying degrees, besides loss of human life and heads of cattle. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams have visited the affected areas in the above State (except Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh) for assessment of the situation and have submitted their reports. The reports are in various stages of processing. The Memoranda received from Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are under examination.

(c) The Entire Central share of Calamity Reief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 has been released to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh and three instalments of Central Share of CRF have been released to the Gujarat,

Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and West Bengal in connection with, immediate relief work. The Memoranda received from these States for assistance from

the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) are in various stages of processing.

गेहूं का समर्थन मूल्य

491. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:(क) सरकार ने चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान गेहूं का क्या समर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित किया है;

(ख) क्या देश के प्रमुख गेहूं उत्पादक राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों ने हाल ही में गेंहू के समर्थन मूल्य में वृद्धि किए जाने हेतु कोई विस्तृत ज्ञापन दिया हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(घ) आयातित गेहूं की तुलना में समर्थन मूल्य किस हद तक प्रतिकूल रूप से प्रभावित होगा?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल) : (क) 1998-99 में बेची जाने वाली 1997-98 की गेहूं का फसल का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य 455/- रूपए प्रति क्विंटल है। इसके अतिरिक्त, सरकार ने 01.04.98 से 30.06.98 की अवधि के दौरान सार्वजनिक एजेन्सियों को की गई बिक्री के लिए 55/- रूपए प्रति क्विंटल के केन्द्रीय बोनस का भुगतान किया है।

(ख) से (घ) 1999-2000 में बेची जाने वाली 1998-99 की गेहूं की फसल के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य के संबंध में सरकार वर्तमान में सक्रिय रूप से विचार कर रही है।

Edible Oil and Pulses

492. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of edible oil and pulses have registered a steep hike recently due to acute short supply;

(b) if so, the details regarding extent of production and demand during the last three years and current year, year-wise and imports made and proposed during the current year;

(c) the details of special schemes implemented/proposed to augment production of pulses and oilseeds to meet domestic requirement; and

(d) the details of results achieved so far and action plan for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There has been a steep hike recently in the prices of Mustard oil among edible oils and Arhar among pulses. The production of Oilseeds & Pulses during the last three years and current year are as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Producl tion	
	Oilseeds	Pulses
1994-95	21.34	14.04
1995-96	22.10	12.31
1996-97	24.96	14.46
1997-98	22.24	13.35

The demand as derived from indigenous production + import — export for edible oil and pulses in the country and the imports of these commodities are as under:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Demand		Import	
	Edible Oil	Pulses	Edible Oil	Pulses
1994-95	70.92	145.07	3.47	5.54
1995-96	74.73	127.40	10.62	4.91
1996-97	86.80	150.59	14.16	6.54
1997-98	75.90	138.49	11.30	6.59